United Nations A/C.2/54/L.47

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
23 November 1999

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session
Second Committee
Item 101 (b)
Operational activities for development: economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Daúl Matute (Peru), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.5

Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

The General Assembly,

Stressing that South-South cooperation, as an important element of international cooperation for development, offers viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences and for ensuring their effective and meaningful participation in the newly emerging global economic system,

Recognizing the fact that developing countries have the primary responsibility for promoting and implementing economic and technical cooperation among themselves, and reiterating the need for the international community to support the efforts of the developing countries to expand South-South cooperation through the modality of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries,

Reaffirming its resolutions 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[1] 46/159 of 19 December 1991 on technical cooperation among developing countries, 49/96 of 19 December 1994 on a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation and 50/119 of 20 December 1995 and 52/205 of 18 December 1997 on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation, as well as other relevant resolutions of the General

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

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Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries,

Welcoming the San José Declaration and Plan of Action[2] adopted by the Group of 77 at the South-South Conference on Trade, Investment and Finance, held at San José, Costa Rica, from 13 to 15 January 1997, which outlined concrete modalities on sectoral issues relating to trade, finance and investment and enterprise cooperation,

Taking note of the Declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 at their twenty-third annual meeting,[3] held in New York on 24 September 1999, in which the increased importance and relevance of South-South cooperation was emphasized,

Recognizing the important contribution that the forthcoming South Summit, to be held in Havana, Cuba, in April 2000, could provide for the strengthening of South-South cooperation,

1. *Endorses* the report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on its eleventh session[4] and the decisions adopted by the High-level Committee at that session;[5]

2. *Notes with appreciation* the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation;[6]

3. *Reiterates* that South-South cooperation should be viewed not as a substitute for but rather as a complement to North-South cooperation, and, in that connection, emphasizes the need to effectively promote, *inter alia*, triangular approaches to facilitate South-South programmes and projects;

4. *Recognizes* the significant role of economic and technical cooperation between developing countries and countries with economies in transition in promoting implementation of South-South programmes and projects;

5. *Welcomes* the significant increase in South-South cooperation among developing countries, both in number and in sectoral coverage, reported by developing countries and the United Nations system;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the recent expansion in the scope of economic cooperation among developing countries, with increasing cooperation among business sectors and enterprises in different countries, including through the Trade Point Programme of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the buyers and sellers meetings of the International Trade Centre, and the business forums and Enterprise Forums of the International Labour Organization, and encourages these United Nations organizations to document and disseminate their experiences, lessons and operational methodologies for future application;

7. *Also notes with appreciation* the growing economic cooperation among developing countries with increasing mutual trade and investment, as well as industrial and technical cooperation, including that in the context of small and medium-sized enterprises;

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[2] A/C.2/52/8, annex.

[3] A/54/432, annex I.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/54/39).

[5] Ibid., annex I.

[6] A/54/425.

8. *Welcomes* the successful conclusion of the second round of negotiations on the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries and invites participating countries to join in efforts towards deepening, accelerating and expanding the Global System to enhance its impact;

9. *Recognizes* the progress achieved in a number of developing countries in strengthening human and institutional capacities, *inter alia*, in such areas as education, health, biotechnology, information and communications technology, space technology, financial sector management and microfinance, sharing of which would be beneficial to enhancing growth and development in other developing countries, and urges the international community, particularly bilateral and multilateral donors, to continue to assist the capacity-building efforts of developing countries in these areas;

10. *Notes with appreciation* the growing number of developed countries participating in triangular cooperation and encourages the use of such cooperation by other countries and, in this context, requests the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, in collaboration with the countries that have been supporting such cooperation, to seek innovative ways to document and disseminate relevant lessons learned based on progress achieved and problems encountered and to identify options for the exploitation of the full potential of such cooperation;

11. *Also notes with appreciation* the contribution made by some countries to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation, and to the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and invites all countries, in particular developed countries, to contribute to the Trust Funds;

12. *Calls upon* all Governments, and all relevant United Nations organizations, and multilateral and regional financial institutions to consider increasing allocations of financial resources for economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, and to strengthen funding modalities to promote South-South cooperation, such as triangular cooperation and private sector funding;

13. *Encourages* developing countries, and relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system as well as other partners in the development efforts, in the practice of technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, to develop and support innovative mechanisms to foster South-South cooperation in science and technology, with particular emphasis on development and sharing of high technologies as well as appropriate technologies, with a view to their better utilization for growth and development of developing countries;

14. *Stresses*, in this context, that South-South cooperation in science and technology is not a replacement for, but a complement to, traditional North-South cooperation in science and technology, in particular appropriate North-South technology transfer;

15. *Emphasizes* the need for concerted action by developing countries and their development partners, including relevant international organizations, with a view to strengthening cooperation and collaboration among developing countries at the regional, subregional and interregional levels;

16. *Reiterates its invitation* to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, as well as other relevant organizations, taking into account their agreed mandates, work programmes and priorities, to undertake jointly further work on formulating concrete recommendations on the implementation of and follow-up to the Caracas Programme of

Action,[7] adopted at the High-level Conference on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, held in Caracas in May 1981, as an important mechanism for economic cooperation among developing countries, and the San José Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the Group of 77 at the South-South Conference on Trade, Investment and Finance,[2] as well as on the Bali Declaration on Regional and Subregional Economic Cooperation of the Developing Countries[8] and the Bali Plan of Action on Regional and Subregional Economic Cooperation of the Developing Countries,[9] adopted by the Group of 77 High-level Conference on Regional and Subregional Economic Cooperation, held at Bali, Indonesia, from 2 to 5 December 1998, within the context of South-South cooperation;

17. *Requests* the United Nations system to take appropriate measures to improve the effective incorporation of technical cooperation among developing countries into its programmes and projects and to intensify efforts towards mainstreaming the modality of technical cooperation among developing countries, including through support to the activities of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, and encourages other relevant international institutions to undertake similar measures;

18. *Reiterates its request* to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to ensure that the separate identity of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries is maintained and supported to fully implement its mandate and system-wide responsibilities in promoting, monitoring and coordinating technical cooperation among developing countries;

19. *Stresses* the need, with reference to decision 11/3 adopted by the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries at its eleventh session[10] and the provisional agenda for the twelfth session of the High-level Committee approved therein, to take appropriate measures to ensure the necessary level of attendance of all member States in the meeting of the High-level Committee, including through discussions of country experiences at the field level, in terms of progress achieved, problems encountered and lessons learned;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the sub-item entitled "Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries", and in that context requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to present to it at that session a report on the state of South-South cooperation and a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[7] A/36/333 and Corr.1, annex.

[8] A/53/739, annex I.

[9] Ibid., annex II.

[10] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/54/39), annex I, decision 11/3.